

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted prior to the issuance of a first Office Action and simultaneously with the filing of the present application.

With this amendment applicants have amended the specification, cancelled claim 1 and added new claim 2, all in an effort to place the application in better condition for examination.

Favorable action on the present application is respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, starting at line 5:

Such valve solenoids have long been known and are evident, for example, from the German utility model 90 03 343 or from the US patent [specification] No. 5,138,292.

Page 2, starting at line 10:

The object of the invention is to [develop] provide an explosionproof valve solenoid [of this generic type in such a way] that [it] can easily be manufactured at low cost while satisfying the ignition protection type "pressure-resistant encapsulation" in the region where external cables are connected.

This object is achieved according to the invention, in a valve solenoid of the type described [at the beginning] above, in that the coil and the iron circuit are embedded in a casting compound introduced into a housing part, which casting compound prevents an explosive atmosphere reaching live parts and is simultaneously used for fixing purposes and electrical insulation (cast encapsulation)[, and in that connecting]. Connecting elements of the coil are arranged in a housing part which withstands internal pressure in the case of an explosion and prevents transmission of the explosion to the environment (pressure-resistant encapsulation).

Page 3, starting at line 21:

Further advantages and features of the invention are the subject matter of the following description and of the drawing representation of an embodiment [example] of the invention.

Page 5, starting at line 1:

The housing part 11 is closed at its end by a cap 17. This engages, by means of a protrusion 17a on it, in an end-face opening 18 in the housing in such a way that a predetermined length of the protrusion 17a overlaps the opening 18, which is complementary to the protrusion 17a, so as to form a gap between the protrusion 17a and the opening 18 which is [proof] secure against ignition penetration. In addition, a seal 60 can be provided which, in the assembled state, is arranged between the cap 17 and the housing 10.

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